areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development, while community participation and the capacity building skill upgradation in such Rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. The Central Assistance for infrastructure creation, which has been extended till now is enclosed as Statement-I while the Central assistance extended for capacity building etc. under UNDP project is enclosed as Statement-ll. [Refer to the Statement-I and II appended to the answer to Unstarred Question 2914 part (c)]

Promotion of Bio-Tourism

2922. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to popularise bio-tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government have surveyed important places of Karnataka including Medikeri of Coorg district, Mysore, and other places to improve them as bio-tourism destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

(c) No, Sir.

Promotion of indigenous products at ITDC duty free shops

2923. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will insist that ITDC duty free shops carry only Indian tea, coffee and cigarettes;

(b) whether any study has been done by Government on ensuring how best to promote Indian goods and avoid foreign goods like tea, coffee and cigarettes; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that Indian goods are given a boost at the duty free shops of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation is stocking Indian Tea, Coffee and Cigarettes belonging to various Indian companies in the duty free shops in addition to foreign goods.

(b) and (c) India Tourism Development Corporation is planning with the support of Ministry of Tourism, to establish Incredible India gift shops at Duty Free outlets which will stock and promote Indian products.

Clearance of projects from Orissa

2924. SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY: SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa has suffered regularly from natural calamities;

(b) whether the State has sent a proposal to the Central Government for construction of dams on the branch rivers of Mahanadi and there is also an imperative need for strengthening the embankments along the river for which a proposal has already been submitted to CWC;

(c) if so, what is the status of these proposals; and

(d) the time-frame within which these would be approved and funds allocated to the State for execution of the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Orissa has submitted detailed project reports for eight projects envisaging construction of dams on the tributaries of the Mahanadi. Out of these seven project proposals have been techno-economically appraised and accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to compliance of a few observations and one project proposal is under techno-economic appraisal. None of these proposals incorporate flood control benefits. Out of the two embankment strengthening schemes one scheme estimated to cost Rs. 104 crore is under appraisal in Central Water Commission and the other scheme estimated to cost Rs. 14 crore was not approved by the